

1. Brahma Purana



Preface

The **Puranas** are Hindu religious texts that are part of the *Vedas*. They contain narratives about the history of the Universe from creation to destruction and the genealogies of kings, heroes, sages, and deities. Some of the *Puranas* are discourses on cosmology, geography and Hindu philosophy. They are usually written in the form of a dialogue.

Vyasa, the narrator of the *Mahabharata*, is traditionally considered the compiler of the *Puranas*. The earliest written versions were compiled during the time of the Gupta Empire (4 - 6 century CE) and much of the material may be dated, through historical references and comparative studies, to this period and the succeeding centuries.

The texts were collected from all over India and because of the similarities that are found throughout the texts, it is not possible to trace the line of influence of one *Purana* upon another, so the corpus is best viewed as a synchronous whole.

This book is an edited version after going through many websites& documents related to Puranas on the Internet. If anything found incorrect, it's lack of my Knowledge.

Thanks,

Ashok



Om Gum Ganapataye Namaha

Introduction

Brahma Purana contains 4 Chapters as follows

- 1) Lord Brahma
- 2) Goddess Sarasvati
- 3) Lord Vishnu
- 4) Goddess Laxmi

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1

Lord
Brahma

This chapter contains 9 sections:

1.1 A Profile of Lord Brahma

According to the scriptures,

- **Lord Brahma** was born on the lotus that had arisen from the navel of eternal omnipresent Lord Narayan Vishnu. During the period of deluge (Pralaya) all the creations was destroyed and the creatures that had gone into Maharloka (the fourth of the upper worlds according to the Puranas), take birth again on the earth as per their deeds.
- God who keeps an account of the innumerable deeds of those innumerable creatures and arrange for their incarnations is called **Brahma**.

1.2 Scriptural Appearance of Lord Brahma

Scriptures describe the appearance of **Lord Brahmatus**:

- He who has four heads, holds Vedas, Rosary, Yagnopavita (Sacred thread) and Kamandalu (bowl); wears red clothes and rides a swan. He is none other than **Lord Brahma**, grandfather of all of us.

1.3 Four Heads of Lord Brahma

- **Lord Brahma** is shown with 4 heads, besides being the creator of the universe, **Lord Brahma** is a deponent of the deeds of all the creatures as well, allotting the creatures various incarnations as per their deed is duty of **Lord Brahma**.
- Hence the full knowledge of a creature's deed is an indispensable precondition before deciding an incarnation for it. Only then full justice could be assured for a creature. Hence to look around in all the directions, Lord Brahma is shown with the four heads.

1.4 White Beard of Lord Brahma

- **Lord Brahma** is the great grandfather of all of us. Hence his appearance must match his status.
- Since antiquity, in a single day of **Lord Brahma** no one knows how many members of creatures take birth and die. The period since antiquity can be calculated according to astrology.
- Since **Lord Brahma** has such an eternal existence, his appearance must correspond to his eternity as well, so that feeling of respect could naturally arise among the people for him. Hence, Lord **Brahma** is shown with a white beard.

1.5 Swan as a Vehicle

Swan is a white bird. God has bestowed it with unique virtues. Virtues that are not to be found in any creature of the 84 lakh incarnations, their virtue is NEERA-KSHEERA VIVEKA, that is, if milk is mixed with water, a swan is capable of separating milk from water and taking it rejecting the water. It is an indication of **Lord Brahma** that every creature deserves a full justice regarding his deeds, no matter how much entangled it might be. There should not be any ado in the justice. People must also learn from it that they should imbibe only the valuable part of a thing and discard the worthless. Only then they could be regarded as a doer of good deeds and thus receive honor in the society.

1.6 Purpose of Holding Vedas

- Vedas are undoubtedly the most ancient scriptures in the word. Even the great deluge (Pralaya) could not destroy Vedas for almighty **Brahma** himself had taken incarnation to save Vedas during deluge.
- Hence Vedas have no beginning and no end. Besides Vedas also remind **Lord Brahma** of the previous Kalpa (the grand period that includes all the four Yugas). Vedas also teach us that everything is destructible, only the truth cannot be destroyed.

- Hence in the carnation of destructible body, never forget the indestructible, eternal, almighty Paramatma because every other thing in the world is bound to be destroyed one day.

1.7 Rosary in Second Hand

The great grandfather of all the creatures **LordBrahma** teaches by his appearance that the human incarnation is not just for the mundane jobs. Instead among the mundane jobs, human being must keep on remembering the almighty Paramatma. Because without reciting the name of almighty God welfare of any human being is simply not possible. Hence, by the rosary in second hand **Lord Brahma** teaches that, always keep on telling the name of almighty God, for your welfare. It is therefore written also -

Japata Siddhih Japatasiddhih Japatasidhih Nasanshayah

Meaning: One gets perfection only in the name of almighty God, there is no doubt in it. Hence, comprehending these things human being must keep on reciting and telling the name of omnipresent God whether he is moving, or sitting, eating or drinking and sleeping or awakening.

1.8 Kamandalu (Coconut Shell Bowl)

JalamevJeevanam

That is water is life. Water is the basic physical element that caused the whole creation to exist. The coconut shell bowl (Kamandalu) held by **Lord Brahma**; also holds water, thus depicting the hassle free existence and continuence of the whole creation.

1.9 Seat of the Lotus

- Lotus is the seat for Lord **Brahma** Lotus also adorns the hand of **Lord Vishnu** and is an essential item to worship **Lord Shiva**. Everyone knows that the lotus grows from the muck. Thus, it teaches that inspite of being born of the muck be as pure as possible. Including

humans, all creatures are born out of the muck called passion and illusion. They are unable to free themselves from these two.

- Thus the lotus seat of **Lord Brahma** teaches that regardless of origin one must strive to be as free and pure as possible from the influences of one's origin. In another words, humans must obtain themselves from the passion and illusion of the world despite being surrounded by them.

2

Goddess
Sarasvati

This chapter contains 3 sections:

2.1 Appearance of Sarasvati

Literally, Sarasvati means **Sarah-** Knowledge, **SthanamyasyahAstiti**. Thus, Sarasvati is the goddess who rules all kinds of knowledge without worshipping her no one can be a learned person. Hence followers of other religions also worship Saraswati, though the name and appearance may differ slightly.

Appearance of Saraswati is thus described in the scriptures as:

- Wearer of the white clothes giver of the power to reflect the essence of **Brahma**, supreme power
- Holder of veena (Lyre), book, beaded rosary.
- The benevolent Goddess is seated on a lotus.

2.2 Significance of Book and Veena (Lyre)

- Noted sage Bhartrihari writes that without literature and music, a man is not more than an animal. Hence the book and veena in the hands of Saraswati teach that if the humans wish to do away with their bruteness, knowledge of literature and music is must for them.
- Hence, Goddess Saraswati is shown with a book and Veena the symbols of literature and music respectively.

2.3 Beaded Rosary

- The ultimate goal of knowledge is salvation.
- Salvation is possible only with unification with God. And rosary is a means for unification with God. But why a rosary of white beads only? It is so because white beads depict spotless purity. Thus it teaches us to rise above the blemishes of passion, anger, greed, ego, lust, envy, enmity etc. And make our mind as spotless as the beads.
- Similar teaching is given by the lotus seat and swan vehicle of the Goddess Saraswati.

3

Lord

Vishnu

This chapter contains 11 sections:

3.1 Appearance of Lord Vishnu

Worship of **Lord Vishnu** is extremely essential for those who wish to receive the supreme salvation. A common rule of worship is that the worshipper must essentially have the virtues of the worshipped. Hence, **Lord Vishnu** gives his virtues through physical appearance.

3.2 Reflection of Scriptural Appearance

Shantakaram Bhujangashayanam Padmanabham Suresham,

Vishwadharam Gagan Sadrisham Meghavarnam Shubhangam |

Lakshmikantan Kamalnayanam Yogimirdhyana Gamyam,

Vande Vishnum Bhava Bhayaharam Sarva Lokaiknatham ||

Meaning: I worship that **Lord Vishnu** who has a peaceful body (postures); who rests on Sheshanaga (the mighty serpent - cobra); who has a lotus in his navel, who is the base of the world, who is like the sky; who has a color like cloud, who is the lord of Lakshmi (wealth); who has eyes like lotus; who is seen by yogis in their meditation; who is the remover of all the differences and who is the only Lord of all the three Lokas (Worlds), I worship such **Lord Vishnu**.

3.3 Scientific Depiction of Vishnu's Appearance

It is a common principle the worshipper should be a Deva (God) first and worship the God then, let us reflect the appearance of **Lord Vishnu** in light of this principle. The first virtue of **Lord Vishnu** is his peaceful appearance. Hence his worshipper must also acquire peaceful appearance. This is also the need of the hour in the world that is presently full of conflicts, disputes, tensions and all that could pose a potential danger to the earth itself.

Despite having all kinds of wealth and luxuries people are devoid of peace. Hence, all the worshippers who want peace, must first reflect the peaceful appearance of Lord Vishnu.

3.4 Why does Lord Vishnu rest on Sheshanaga?

The 2nd virtue (resting on the Sheshanaga) must be considered as the sub-virtue of the peaceful appearance.

Scriptures describe Sheshanaga as Kala also. Sheshanaga is supposed to be a highly poisonous snake. But **Lord Vishnu** is resting on him without fear or worries. It teaches us not to lose patience even while facing the kala itself; instead one must strive to ride on it, only then can one remain in peaceful appearance. If the fear overpowers you, it may shatter your peace. The worshippers who want salvation are being indicated to be peaceful in every circumstances.

3.5 Why is Lotus in the Navel?

The 3rd virtue of **Lord Vishnu** is that he bears a lotus on his navel, hence he is also known as Padmanabham.

From the lotus rises Lord **Brahma**. **Brahma** has only royal virtues (Rajo guna). Thus to remain in peaceful form

Lord Vishnu has discarded all the royal virtues through his navel. Similarly, he has made the snake, which has Tamo guna (virtue of darkness), his seat, thus only Satoguna (Virtue of the truth) remains with him, and God became Shantakaram (acquired a peaceful form). Hence, if a worshipper wishes to be in peaceful form, he must first discard the virtues of royalty and darkness.

3.6 Why does Vishnu stay in the Sea of Milk?

Before attempting to solve the problems, let us first give a thought to the oceans also. All the oceans, as we know are huge bodies of Saline water. How is then the sea of milk? A couplet of Chanakya neeti explains it thus:

KaChinta Mam JivaneYadiHariivishvammbaroGeeyate,

No ChedarbhakaJivanayJananistanyamKathmNirmyet |

ItyalochymuhurmuhuryadupateLakshmipateKewal

TvatpadamshujasevanenSatatamKalomayaNeeyate ||

Meaning: If God Hari Vishnu is known as VISHVAMBHAR (feeder of the world) I need not worry for anything in the world. If he were not there, where the milk would come from in the breast of a mother before child's birth. So God filled the breast of a new mother with complete food that is milk.

It is clear from the above example that Lord Vishnu assumes different forms just to feed all the creatures in the world, of these different forms of the God, the milk is one. According to another principle of scriptures, God is present in every grain. Hence he is also present in the milk also. It is also the supreme duty of the humankind to maintain the original pure form of the milk, because the milk is prone to damage quickly. Similarly, all these desirous of Salvation, must follow Vaishnava religion, otherwise any deviation in it may damage all of their penance.

3.7 Reason for holding the Wheel

The famous Sudarshana Chakra (wheel) is whirling on the finger of **Lord Vishnu**. Through this wheel, God teaches the human kind that the cycle of the universe is whirling at his will. If anybody tries to go against his will (i.e. wheel) or gives up religion and begins to behave irreligiously, I will whirl him like the wheel or punish him with the wheel.

3.8 Reason for holding the Conch

White color and sound are the main virtues of the conch. Through the color of the conch, God **Vishnu** teaches us to follow the path of the truth. The sound is like a warning call that if path of truth is not followed, the violator will be challenged and punished. Thus. Either by fear or by any other thing, one must follow the path of truth.

3.9 Purpose of Kaustubhamani

Kaustubha is the best jewel among all the gems. One who bears it, must be gentle, knowledgeable, virtuous etc.

Thus, bearing **Kaustubha Mani**, God preaches the common people that if they wish to develop all these virtues in them, they will have to move towards this gem once advanced, they will feel the eternal light in life and desired unification with God and ultimate salvation.

3.10 Why does Lord Vishnu hold a Mace?

- Mace is a weapon that shows and dares for the physical strength.
- It was used by the fighters to demonstrate their strength. Among all the ancient weapons, mace was the main.
- Its application is profusely seen in the epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata by physically powerful and strong characters like Hanuman & Bheema. Thus with the mace, God warns anti-social elements that if they try to violate the sanctity of religion and torment his devotees, He will punish them.
- **Tulsidas** too writes about the reasons for incarnation of God.

Jab-Jab Hohi Dharama Ki Hani... Harhinath Sajjana Kai Peera |

God takes various incarnations to protect his devotees.

3.11 Why is Garuda (Eagle) the Vehicle of Vishnu?

Garuda (eagle) is said to be the king of the birds. It is the fearest of bird. Thus God is assuring his devotees to be fearless, because if any calamity befell them, he will reach them in no time.

4

Goddess

Laxmi

This chapter contains 3 sections:

4.1 Why Goddess Laxmi presses the feet of God?

- **Goddess Lakshmi** presents an example of an ideal spouse before the world. The supreme duty of a woman is described in the service of her husband.
- Second aspect of the message is for the people who want to get rich, that if they want the wealth, they must develop a devotion for the feet of Narayana, for **Lakshmi** (Goddess of wealth) is to be found there and nowhere else.

4.2 Reason for Liquidity of Laxmi

- The better half of Lord Vishnu can never be freakish, because Satoguna is the main virtue of **Lord Vishnu**. In the proximity of God whose main virtue is Satoguna, no one can remain freakish.
- But the material wealth, that is Gold, and silver, have mobility as their main virtue. Thus the rich people who have this wealth's may be freakish, but not **Lakshmi** the beloved of **God Vishnu**.

4.3 Why is the owl the vehicle of Laxmi?

- Owl is the vehicle of goddess **Lakshmi**.
- An owl can't see in the day, Hence, **Lakshmi** visits the house of those devotees who only worship her, on her vehicle owl. And she visits the home of those devotees who worship **Lord Vishnu** first and then her, with **Vishnu** riding his vehicle **Garuda**.
- It also implies that at places where black-money is main, **Lakshmi** rides an owl. Such a wealth can't be put in the service of nation, people religion etc., or in any worthy task, instead it is squandered in abhorrent deeds. Since owl is a bird that sees in the darkness alone, and darkness symbolizes ignorance. Because of ignorance, money is generated in wrong ways and spent in wrong deeds. **Thus owl is a symbol of black money and misdeeds.**